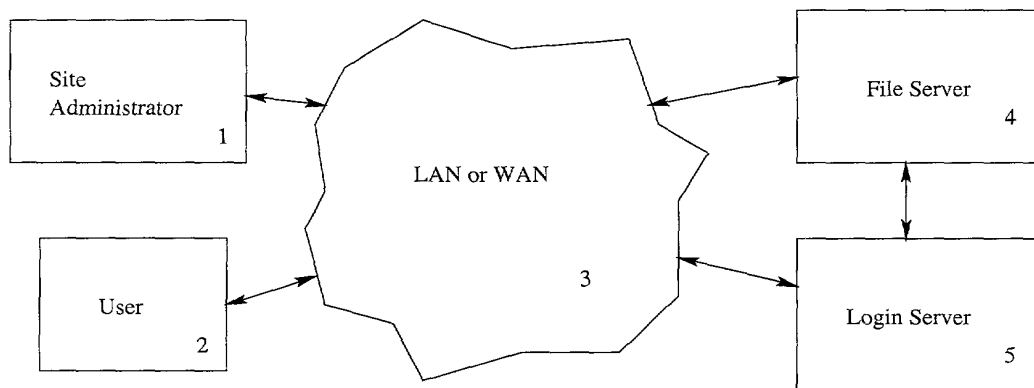
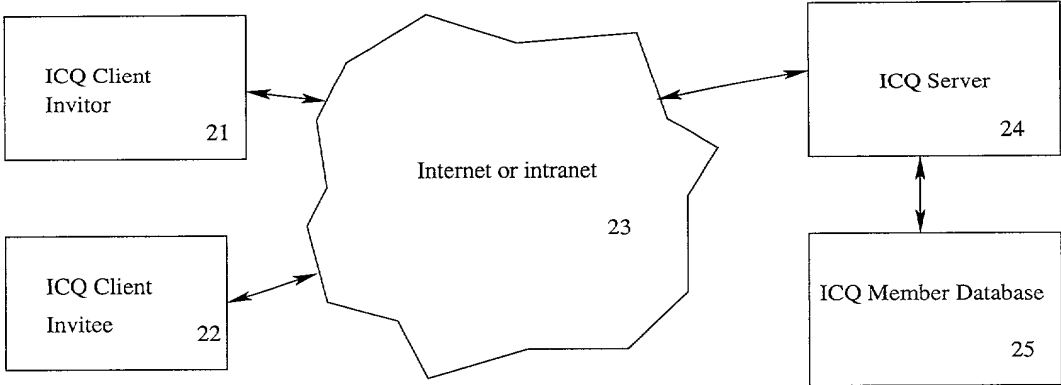


**Fig, 1: Topological view of a traditional file sharing system**



**(Prior Art)**

**Fig. 2: Topological view of the ICQ member system**



**(Prior Art)**

**Figure 3: Topological view of the online photo community**

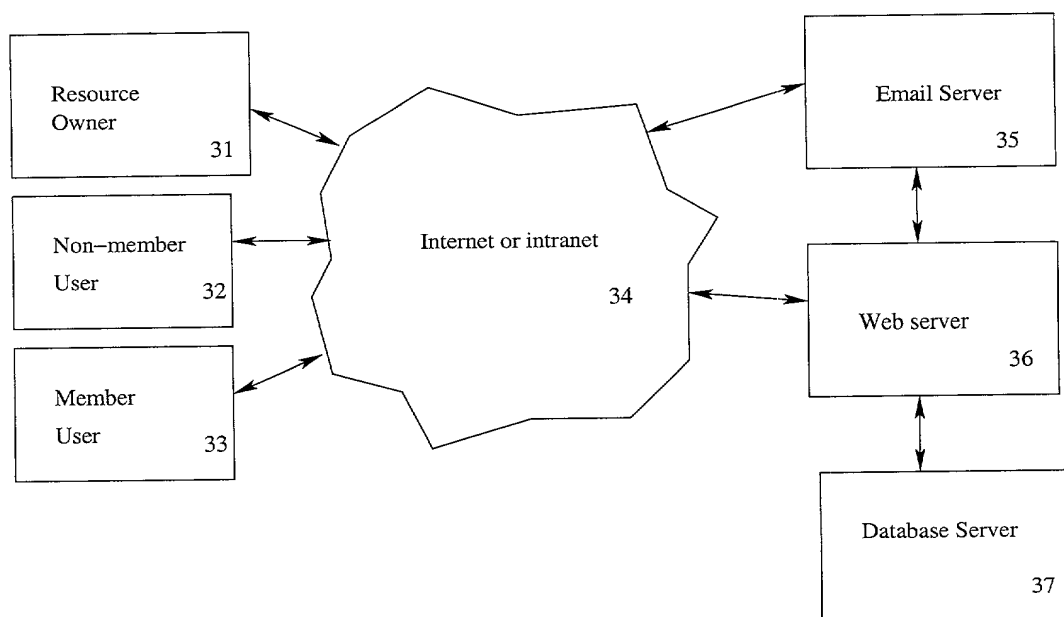
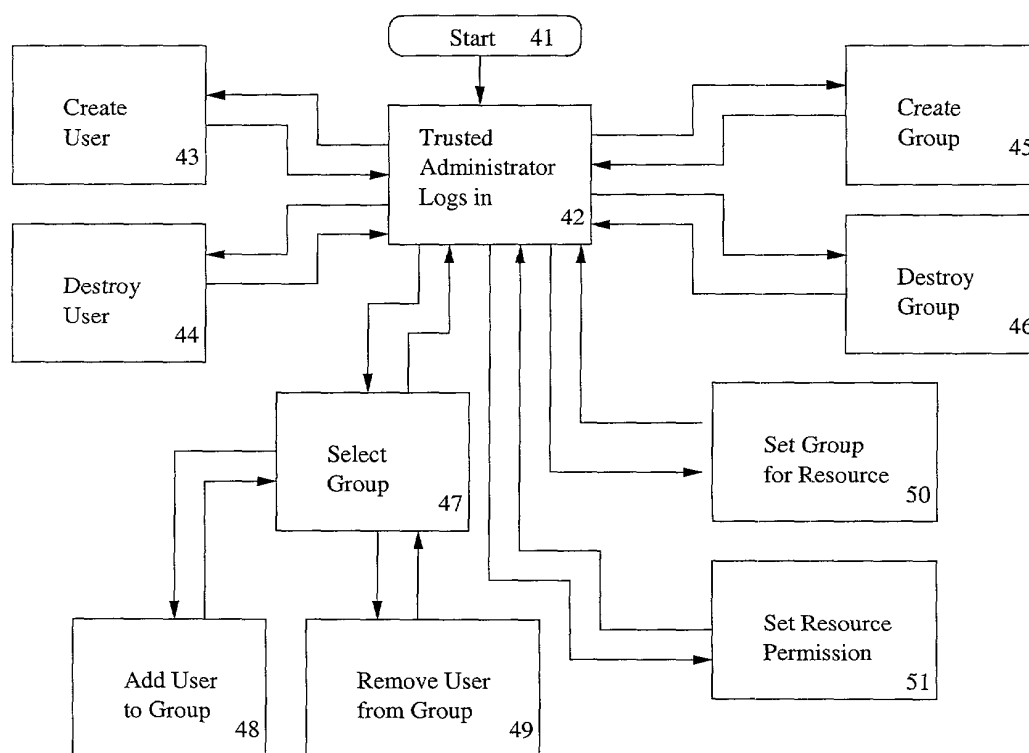
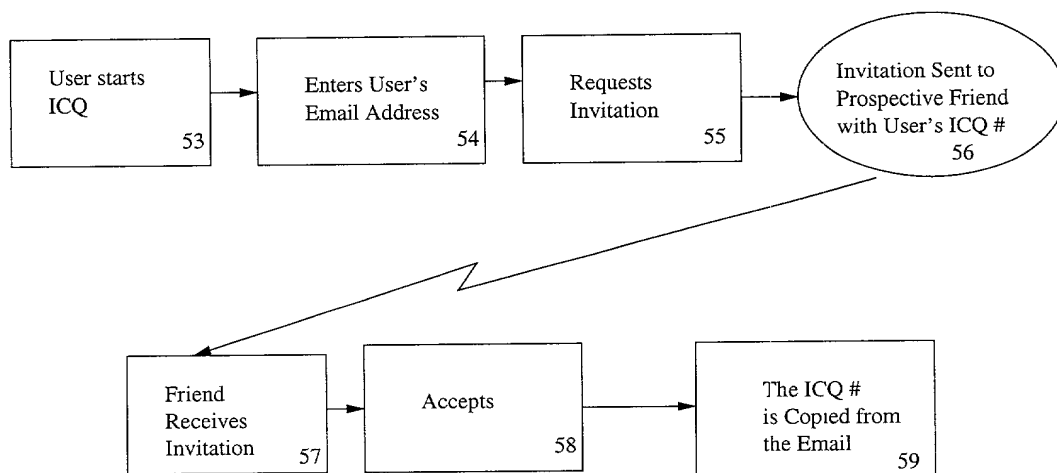


Fig. 4: State diagram of a trusted administrator group system



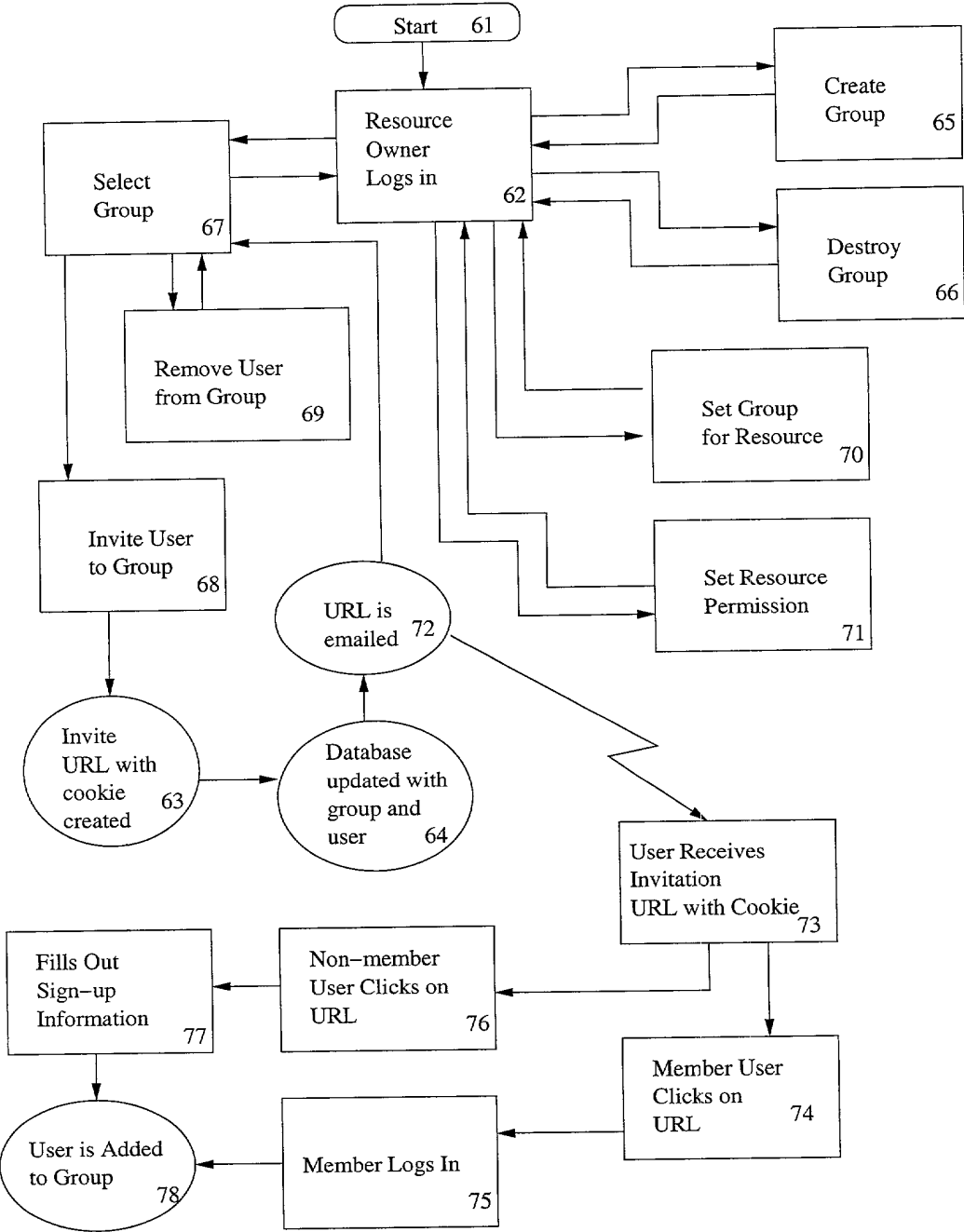
(Prior Art)

**Fig. 5: State diagram of the ICQ member system**



**(Prior Art)**

Fig. 6: State diagram of the online photo community



2007-2008

Member "dissident" logs in:

**Member Login**  
User name:  
  
Password:  
  
  
[Forgot your password?](#)

← 100

FIG. 7

Member "dissident" chooses My Groups from the navigation bar:

**pixBANK™** **Send** **"Your Expression"** personalized greetings inc. 

[Upload](#) [Photo Gallery](#) [About Us](#) [Contact Us](#) [Log Out](#) [Help](#)



[New Album](#) [Delete](#)

Items: 0  
Price: CDN \$0.00  


☐ My Albums  
☐ My Groups  
☐ Preferences

Search

Visit a User  
Username or E-mail

Album		Album	
	<b>First Album (11)</b>		<b>hello (0)</b>
	<b>Jim's your uncle. (1)</b> These are photos from my Dad's birthday party at Keith's.		<b>Random (6)</b>

102 ↗

FIG. 8

Member "dissident" chooses create group:

Mega-Flops ☒ Go

Member "dissident" names the group "sample group":

## Create a New Group

Name:

FIG. 9

Member "dissident" adds new members:

## Add Members to Group:

☒

You can enter e-mail addresses or pixBANK usernames in the following fields. We will send e-mail to each of these people to invite them to join your group. Please double-check all of your addresses. Where possible, it is better to use the person's pixBANK username.

dmwick@excite.c	<input type="text"/>
steve1	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Note that both members who have signed up previously and non-members can be invited.

FIG. 10



The site emails off invitations. The group shows that there are 2 pending group members:

sample group ☒ GO

Group Members	Shared Albums
Group "sample group" has no members. <u>Invite New Members</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Album <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hello <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim's your uncle. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travels <input type="button" value="Update"/>

← 110

This group has 2 pending invitations

Manage Invitations

FIG. 11

← 112

To see which members have not yet joined, Manage Invitations can display pending invitations and allow for re-requesting or blocking members that weren't requested:

## Manage Group Invitations

- ☐ dmwick@excite.com
- ☐ steves

← 114

Select All

FIG. 12

Now non-member dmwick@excite.com receives an email:

Date: Thu, 08 Feb 2001 11:37:44 PST

From: "www-data" <www-data@opengraphics.com> [Add to

To: dmwick@excite.com

Subject: pixBANK Group Invitation

The pixBANK member 'dissident' has invited you to join one of his/her photo sharing groups. If you would like to join this group, please click on the following URL:

[http://demo.pixbank.com/jg.php3?id=163\\_3c74b8c](http://demo.pixbank.com/jg.php3?id=163_3c74b8c)

← 116

If you are not interested, please just ignore this e-mail.

Thank you,  
The pixBANK Robot

P.S. pixBANK is a website that facilitates on-line storage, sharing and professional-quality printing of your home photos. Please feel free to visit our site at <http://demo.pixbank.com/> if this service interests you.

FIG. 13

Non-member [dmwick@excite.com](mailto:dmwick@excite.com) clicks on the link:

The screenshot shows the pixBANK website interface. At the top left is the **pixBANK™** logo with the tagline "IMAGES FOREVER". To its right is a banner for "Your Expression" by personalized greetings inc. Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: Upload, Photo Gallery, About Us, Contact Us, Log Out, and Help. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a shopping cart icon showing "Items: 0" and "Price: CDN \$0.00". Below the cart are links for "My Albums", "My Groups", and "Preferences". Further down is a "Search" section with a text input field and a "GO" button. Below that is a "Visit a User" section with a text input field and a "GO" button. The main content area displays a notification: "User 'dissident' has invited you to join his/her 'sample group' photo-sharing group." followed by two bullet points: "• If you are already a pixBANK member, you can join the group by logging in right now." and "• If you are not yet a member, please sign up for a free membership. Your new account will automatically be added to the group." Below the notification are two buttons: "Log In" and "Sign Up". A handwritten arrow points from the number "118" to the "Sign Up" button. At the bottom of the page, the text "FIG. 14" is written.

**pixBANK™**  
IMAGES FOREVER

**Your Expression**  
personalized greetings inc.

Upload Photo Gallery About Us Contact Us Log Out Help

**User 'dissident' has invited you to join his/her 'sample group' photo-sharing group.**

- If you are already a pixBANK member, you can join the group by logging in right now.
- If you are not yet a member, please sign up for a free membership. Your new account will automatically be added to the group.

Log In Sign Up

118

FIG. 14

If the users had an existing users account but registered under a different email address, then the Log In option would make sense. But this user needs to create an account via Sign Up:

### New User Information

Username:  \*

E-mail Address:  \*

Password:  \*

Re-type password:  \*

☐ Send me periodic pixBANK updates.

☐ Send system messages by e-mail.

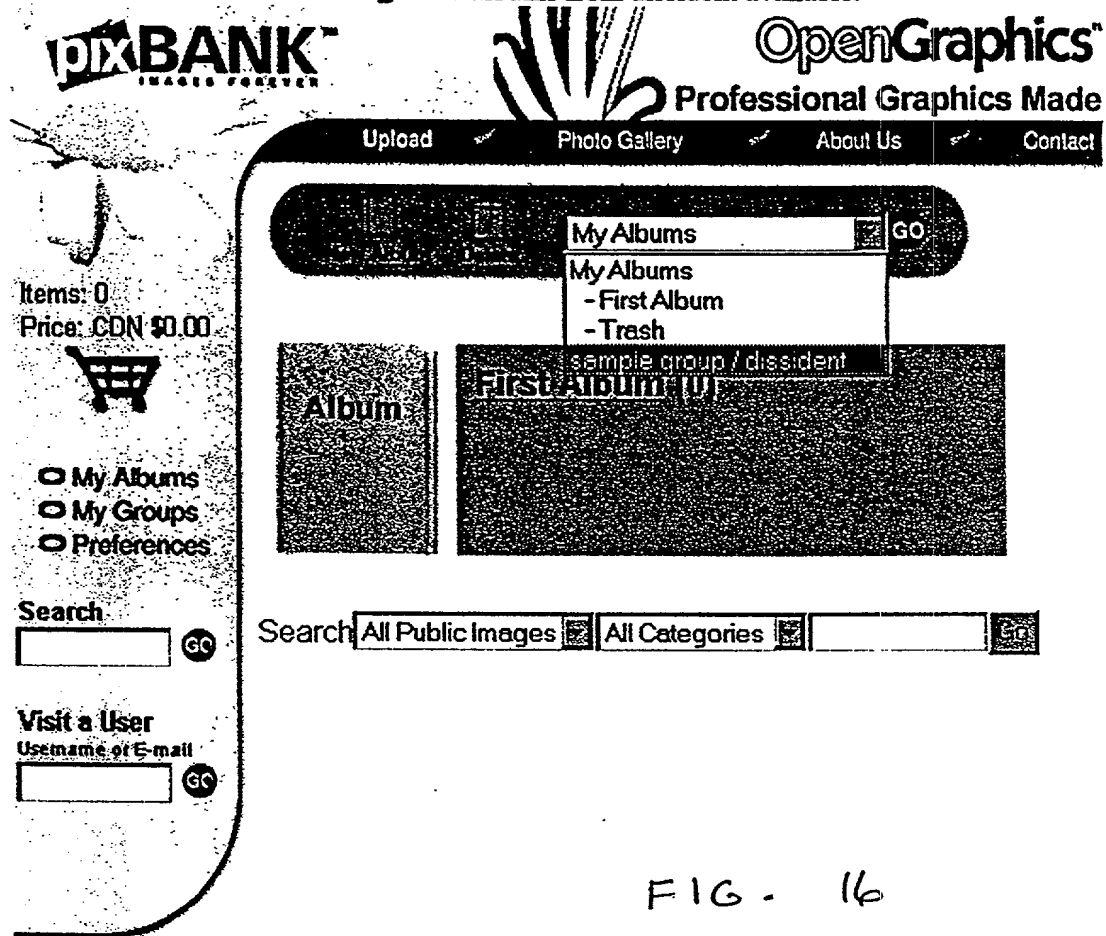
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

122

120

FIG. 15

The non-member [dmwick@excite.com](mailto:dmwick@excite.com) becomes member "patent". Member "patent" views the list of available albums and finds the shared albums from dissident available:



Member "patent" can access and use the albums that belong to the group called "sample group" owned by member "dissident"

sample group / dissident

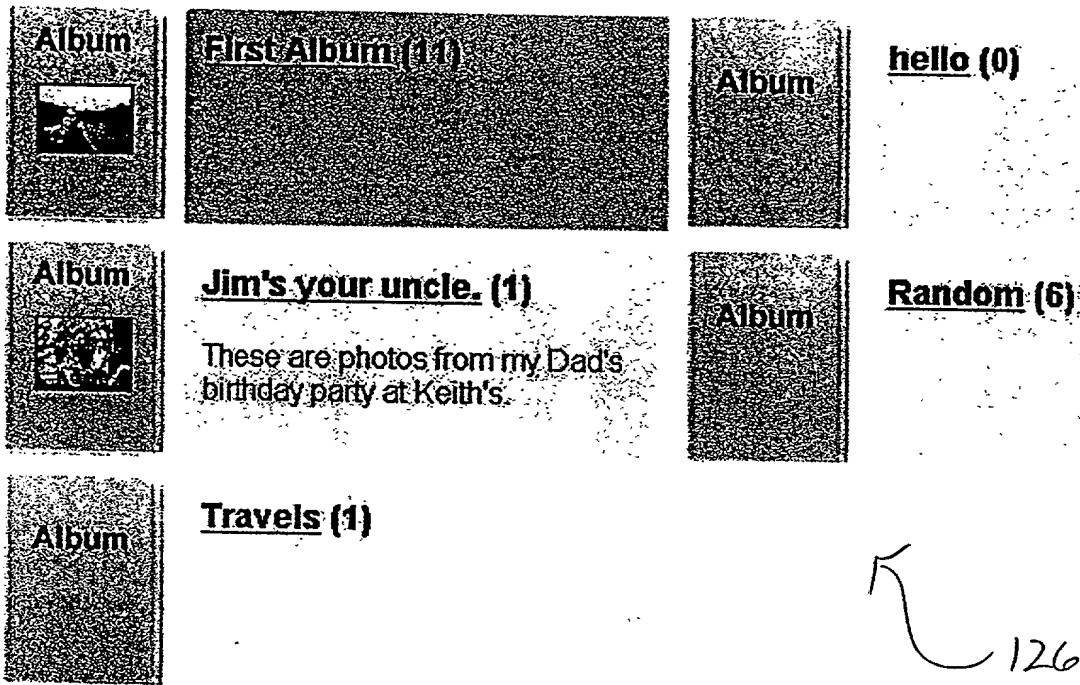


FIG. 17

Now that member "patent" has joined the group, member "dissident" sees a system message:



By choosing to view the system message, member "dissident" learns who has joined his or her group:

System Messages			
<input type="checkbox"/>	patent has joined your group	The pixBANK member 'patent' has accepted your invitation to join the group 'sample group'. They should now be able to view photos in any of this group's shared albums.	Feb 08 2001
Delete Selected Messages		Delete All Messages	Cancel

FIG. 18

Member "dissident" now sees the new member in the group listing:

sample group

Group Members	Shared Albums
patent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Album <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> hello <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim's your uncle. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Random <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travels <input type="button" value="Update"/>

FIG. 19

130

This group has 1 pending invitation

[Manage Invitations](#)

Also there is still a pending invited membership for the group. Finally, member "dissident" can remove users that are no longer welcome:

## Remove Group Members

Please select which members you would like to remove from group "sample group"

☒ patent

132

FIG. 20